(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government are also considering to declare other national parks as Tiger Reserves in many other places across the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Based on proposals received from the States, in principle approval was accorded by the steering Committee of Project Tiger for inclusion of Anamalai Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuaries, falling in Tamil Nadu and Kerala, under Project Tiger. Necessary action has been taken for including the same in the Expenditure Finance Committee memo of Project Tiger.

(c) and (d) The Steering Committee of Project Tiger has also accorded its approval in principle for including the following areas under Project Tiger:

(i) Udanti and Sita Nadi Wildlife Sanctuaries (Chhattisgarh)

(ii) Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary (Orissa)

(iii) Kaziranga National Park (Assam)

(iv) Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary (Chhattisgarh)

(v) Dandeli-Anshi Sanctuary (Karnataka)

(vi) Sanjay National Park and Sanjay Dubri Wildlife Sanctuary (MP)

(vii) Mudumalai Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu)

Bandipur Tiger Reserve

546. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka has sought financial assistance from the Central Government in respect of Bandipur Tiger Reserve; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Under the Centrally Sponsored scheme of Project Tiger, Karnataka has sought Rs. 422.70 lakhs as Central Assistance for Bandipur Tiger Reserve during the current financial year.

(b) Funding support is provided to a reserve as per site specific requirement based on the management plan, within the ambit of Project Tiger guidelines.

Biosphere Reserves

547. SHRI S. P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is lack of interest in Restoring Biosphere Reserve as there is no separate financial budget for Bio-diversity during the recent years;

(b) the details of budgetary allocations made especially for restoring biosphere reserves during the last five years; and

(c) the efforts made by Government to make use of the biodiversity for social and economic benefits as India is one of the 12 mega diversity 'hotspot' regions in the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. Adequate financial budget has been made for restoring Biosphere Reserves including Bio-diversity during recent years.

(b) Details of budgetary allocations made especially for restoring Biosphere Reserves during the last 5 years is as follows:—

(Rupees in crore)

Year	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	Total
Allocation	4.05	4.90	6.99	7.0	7.0	29.94
Release	4.45	5.20	6.07	7.04	6.97	29.73

(c) A large population in the country derive social and economic benefits from biodiversity in terms of timber, fuel wood, food and other minor forest produce, sustainable eco-tourism and recharging of aquifers.